

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10-16, and 18-20 and 22-34 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11, 16 and 18 are hereby amended. New claims 22-34 are hereby added. Applicants submit that newly presented claims 22-34 are similar in scope to previously presented claims. In claims 22-34, Applicants have replaced the means language of the related claims. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12-15, and 18-20 are allowable; Applicants thank the Examiner for the same.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 11, which applicants urges obviates the rejection. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 16 was rejected on the grounds that this claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter. While Applicants do not agree that the claim is not statutory as drafted, claim 16 has been nonetheless been amended to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

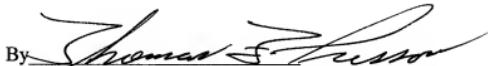
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims remaining in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Brian M. McGuire
Reg. No. 55,445
Ph: (212) 588-0800
Fax: (212) 588-0500